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AS

Guard must go past scandals, leader says

Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II says basic Guard values will be reinforced in training as well as in missions overseas

The California National Guard needs to focus on its core values as it works to move past a year marked with scandal, its new boss told The Tribune on Friday during a visit to Camp Roberts.

Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II took office as adjutant general Sept. 1. He was chosen over Atascadero resident Brig. Gen. John Alexander, who held the post during an interim period.

In recent months, Guard soldiers deployed to Iraq have been accused of beating detainees and extorting money from Iraqi businesses. Wade's predecessor, Maj. Gen. Thomas Eres, resigned because of allegations he didn't pass a shooting test for an Iraq trip and set up a military flight for a Republican group.

Wade says he did not seek the position, but was sought out while commanding a multinational peacekeeping mission in the Balkans. He was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"We will make sure to instill integrity, professionalism and standards of conduct," said Wade. "There are seven basic Army values — including loyalty, leadership, professionalism and honesty — which are the basic things that soldiers must live by so they won't get into trouble."

The new adjutant general who is earning \$167,000 per



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLO

'We will make sure to instill integrity, professionalism and standards of conduct,' said the California National Guard's new adjutant general, Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II.

year — said these values will be continually reinforced in training as well as missions overseas. An Army investigation into the abuse allegations is continuing.

- Nick Wilson